

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/724,553

Examiner

MANSOUR M. SAID

Applicant(s)

ROMANO ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/3/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2 & 4-21; and renumbered as 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____


RICHARD HJERPE

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kaufhold, Sean A. on January 18, 2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 6, line 1, after "the combination according to" please change "claim 3" to -- claim 1--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. **Claims 1-2 and 4-21 are allowed.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-2 and 4-21 are allowed since certain key features of the claimed invention are not taught or fairly suggested by prior art. **In claim 1, "a plurality of keys defining a computer keyboard being positioned in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, each keys comprising a touch sensitive key, each of said keys being translucent; said housing having a height from said top**

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wall to said bottom wall less than 2 ½ inches; a plurality of light emitters being mounted within said housing, each of said light emitters being mounted adjacent one of said keys, each of said light emitters being electrically coupled to said processor; a display being mounted in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, said display being electrically coupled to said processor; an interface being electrically coupled to said processor and selectively coupled to computer; and input from said plurality of keys being received by said computer and a video signal received from the computer being displayed on said display". In claim 13, "a plurality of keys defining a computer keyboard being positioned in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, each of said keys comprising a touch sensitive key, each of said keys being electrically coupled to said processor, each of said keys being translucent, said housing having a height from said top wall to said bottom wall less than 2 ½ inches, a plurality of light emitters being mounted within said housing, each of said light emitters being mounted adjacent to one of said keys, each of said light emitters being electrically coupled to said processor, each of said light emitters comprising a light-emitting diode; a control being electrically coupled to said microprocessor for selectively altering a luminosity of said light emitters, said control being mounted on said housing; a display being mounted in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, said display being electrically coupled to said processor, said display comprising a liquid crystal display, said display being backlit, said display being positioned between said plurality of keys and said back wall; a sound emitter being mounted within said housing and being electrically coupled to said processor, said top wall having a grouping of apertures extending there-through, said apertures being positioned adjacent to said sound emitter; a touch pad being mounted in said top wall, said touch pad being operationally coupled to the

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processor, said touch pad being positioned between said plurality of keys and said front wall; an interface being electrically coupled to said processor and selectively coupled to the computer for communication between said processor and the computer, said interface including a first transceiver and a second transceiver each adapted for sending and receiving wireless transmissions, said first transceiver being electrically coupled to said processor, said second transceiver being removably electrically coupled to the computer; and input from said plurality of keys and said touch pad being received by said computer, a video signal received from the computer being displayed on said display and a sound signal received from the computer being played by said sound emitter". In claim 14, "a plurality of keys defining a computer keyboard being positioned in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, each of said keys comprising a touch sensitive key, each of said keys being electrically coupled to said processor; said housing having a height from said top wall to said bottom wall less than 2 ½ inches; a display being mounted in said top wall and being substantially flush with said top wall, said display being electrically coupled to said processor; an interface being electrically coupled to said processor and selectively coupled to the computer of communication between said processor and the computer; a sound emitter being mounted within said housing and being electrically coupled to said processor, said top wall having a grouping of apertures extending there-through, said apertures being positioned adjacent to said sound emitter; and input from said plurality of keys being received by said computer and a video signal received from the computer being displayed on said display. The closest prior art Hiller (6,396,483) teaches a flat input device (keyboard) incorporating multi-function flat panel input and a display within a housing, Dong (6,630,895) teaches a compute keyboard with built-in display includes a wireless USB

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(Universal Serial Bus) and the keyboard and the display are controlled by a common USB interface control circuit thereby enabling the keyboard to receive and display video signals without additional circuit; Quinn et al. (6,879,317 B2) teaches a collapsible data entry panel including a display, and the data entry panel is collapsible to a surface area less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of its extended configuration by twisting the respective ends of the panel in opposite directions; however, singularly or in combination with other prior art, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mansour M. Said whose telephone number is 571-272-7679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30-6:00 P.M. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe whose telephone number is 571-272-7681.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Washington, D.C. 20231


or faxed to: 571-273-8300 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window at the Randolph Building, 401, Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mansour M. Said

1/18/07



RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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